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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Office of Legislative Liaison

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TO: Committee on Energy and Commerce
House of Representatives
ATTN: Greg Mounts

Attached are unclassified press articles you
requested at the 7 November briefing.

Liaison Division

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(40)

VIENNA NEUE KRONEN-ZEITUNG IN GERMAN JUL 84 P 2
 ((DIETER KINDERMANN REPORT))

((EXCERPT)) VIENNA/MOSCOW -- FEDERAL POWER COMPANY DIRECTOR GENERAL FREMUTH'S TRIP TO BEIJING, WHERE HE NEGOTIATED ON THE QUESTION OF THE PRC TAKING THE NUCLEAR WASTE OF AUSTRIA'S ((AT PRESENT MOTHBALLED -- FBIS)) ZWENTENDORF NUCLEAR POWER PLANT, HAS NOW ACQUIRED A NEW FOREIGN POLITICAL DIMENSION: THE SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS INQUIRED AT THE AUSTRIAN EMBASSY IN MOSCOW AS WELL AS AT THE VIENNA FOREIGN MINISTRY IF ANY AGREEMENTS HAVE BEEN CONCLUDED WITH THE PRC, AND IF SO WHAT KIND. FOLLOWING FREMUTH'S RETURN FROM THE PRC THERE WERE REPORTS THAT HE HAD CONCLUDED A KIND OF PRELIMINARY AGREEMENT ON THE FINAL DEPOSITING OF NUCLEAR WASTE IN THE GOBI DESERT. FREMUTH HIMSELF PROMPTLY DENIED THIS IN A NEUE KRONEN-ZEITUNG INTERVIEW, IN WHICH HE CONFIRMED THAT IT WAS ONLY A MEMORANDUM, A DECLARATION OF INTENT, THAT WAS CONCLUDED IN BEIJING, WHICH LACKED ALL THE LEGAL ELEMENTS OF A FORMAL AGREEMENT. BUT APPARENTLY THESE REPORTS AND THE SUBSEQUENT BICKERING BETWEEN FREMUTH AND VICE CHANCELLOR STEGER OVER THIS ISSUE WERE ENOUGH TO AROUSE THE KREMLIN'S DISTRUST.

THE SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTRY MADE INQUIRIES NOT ONLY AT THE AUSTRIAN EMBASSY IN MOSCOW, BUT IT ALSO HAD THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR IN VIENNA CALL AT THE AUSTRIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY. VIENNA DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES YESTERDAY DID NOT REGARD THIS AS SURPRISING: "ONE NEED ONLY KNOW THE USSR-PRC POLITICAL CONSTELLATION TO REALIZE THAT SUCH A NUCLEAR WASTE AGREEMENT WOULD ENTAIL

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INTERVENTIONS." ACTUALLY THIS ASPECT WAS ALREADY MENTIONED A FEW DAYS AGO BY VICE CHANCELLOR STEGER WHEN HE STRESSED THAT SUCH AN AGREEMENT FOR NUCLEAR WASTE DISPOSAL ALSO INVOLVED A FOREIGN POLITICAL ANGLE. ((PASSAGE OMITTED ON DIFFERENCES OVER THE ZWENTENDORF POWER PLANT WITHIN THE COALITION CABINET))

VIENNA NEUE KRONEN-ZEITUNG IN GERMAN 7 JUL 84 P 3
 ((DIETER KINDERMANN REPORT))

((EXCERPT)) VIENNA/MOSCOW -- NOW NOT ONLY THE PRC BUT ALSO THE SOVIET UNION WANTS TO ACCEPT THE NUCLEAR WASTE FROM OUR ZWENTENDORF POWER PLANT. THE VIENNA FOREIGN MINISTRY YESTERDAY EXPLICITLY CONFIRMED TO NEUE KRONEN-ZEITUNG THAT THE KREMLIN HAD

EXPRESSED ITS INTEREST. CHINA AND THE USSR AS COMPETITORS FOR OUR NUCLEAR WASTE -- WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT IT?

THE SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTRY, AS NEUE KRONEN-ZEITUNG EXCLUSIVELY

REPORTED, REACTED UNUSUALLY QUICKLY TO THE BEIJING TRIP OF FEDERAL POWER COMPANY DIRECTOR GENERAL FREMUTH. TENTATIVE INQUIRIES WERE MADE BOTH AT THE AUSTRIAN EMBASSY IN MOSCOW AND AT THE VIENNA FOREIGN MINISTRY. IN THIS CONTEXT A VIENNA FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCE DECLARED: "MOSCOW HAS SHOWN INTEREST IN TALKS ABOUT ITS TAKING THE NUCLEAR WASTE FROM ZWENTENDORF." ((PASSAGE OMITTED ON DOMESTIC ASPECTS OF THE CONTROVERSIAL ZWENTENDORF ISSUE))